Inquiry into the Assassination of Rajiv Gandhi

*49. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any progress in the enquiry regarding the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what further steps are proposed to be taken to find out the culprits and the conspiracy if any, behind the assassination?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHIR S.B. CHAVAN): (a) to (c). A Commission of Inquiry was set up on 27th May, 1991 consisting of Justice J.S. Verma, a sitting Judge of the Supreme Court of India vide S.O. No. 356(E) dated 27th May, 1991. The terms of reference of the Commission are as under:-

(a) whether the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi could have been averted and whether there were lapses or dereliction of duty in this regard on the part of any of the individuals responsible for his security;

(b) the deficiencies, if any, in the security system and arrangements as prescribed or operated in practice which might have contributed to the assassination.

The Commission may also recommend the corrective remedies and measures that need to be taken for the future with respect to the matters specified in clause (b) of the paragraph mentioned above. The present term of the Commission is upto 31st December, 1991.

2. On 24th June, 1991, a notification under sub-clause (b) of sub-rule (2) of Rule 5 of the Commission of Inquiry (Central) Rules, 1972, was issued by the Commission. Simultaneously, notices under sub-clause (a) of sub-rule (2) of rule 5 ibid were also issued to certain individuals. On 12th August, 1991, the Commission notified its Regulations of Procedure called the Verma Commission of inquiry (Regulations of Procedure) Order, 1991. Thereafter the affidavits received in the Commission were examined/processed.

3. Preliminary hearing of the Commission was held on 7th October, 1991. Thereafter, three more hearings of the Commission were held on 28th October, 1991, 11th November, 1991 and 16th November, 1991. The Commission has fixed 2nd December, 1991 onwards for recording evidence of witnesses.

4. Another Commission of Inquiry consisting of Mr. Justice M.C. Jain, retired Chief Justice of the High Court of Delhi, was appointed vide notification S.O. No. 545(E) dated 23rd August, 1991. The terms of reference of the Commission are as follows:-

(a) the sequence of events leading to, and all facts and circumstances leading to, the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi at sriperumbudur (other than the matters coverd by the terms of reference for the Commission of Inquiry headed by Mr. Justice J.S. Verma)

(b) whether any person or persons or agencies were responsible for conceiving, pre-paring and planning the assassination and whether there was

any conspiracy in this behalf and, if so, all its remifications.

5. The Commission shall make its report to the Central Government as soon as possible but not later than six months.

6. The Commission has published a Notification on 12th November, 1991 under rule 5(2) (b) of the Commission of Inquiry (Central) Rules, 1972 inviting thereby individual, associations, organisations, institutions, authorities and all other persons acquainted with the subject matter of the inquiry to furnish to the Commission, a statement of facts/affidavits on or before 12th December, 1991 relating to the matters specified in the Notification. Individual notices to prominent persons, officials, Government agencies, etc. under 5(2) (a) of the Rules are being issued shortly.

[*Translation*]

Supply of Explosives to Assam Extremists

*50. SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that explosives are being supplied to the Assam extremists from the coal fields of Bihar; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b). Two parcel of gunny bags containing detonators were recovered by R.P.F. Guwahati. The offence is under investigation. The State Government with the aid of the army and the central para-military organisations is engaged in controlling such activities.

[*English*]

Kidnappings in Delhi

*51. DR. A.K. PATEL:
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of kidnappings that took place in Delhi during the last six months;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) the number out of these cases that have been solved;

(d) the number of kidnappers arrested and the victims rescued;

(e) the number of cases where ransom had to be paid by the relatives of the kidnapped persons and the amount so paid in each case;

(f) the number of case where the kidnappers have not been caught;

(g) the reasons therefor; and

(h) the measures taken by the Government to check such cases in future?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) to (d). During the last six months (from 1st May, 1991 to 31st October, 1991) 327 cases of kidnapping took place in Delhi. Out of these, 88 cases were cancelled and 10 filed as untraced, leaving 229 cases for investigation. Of these, investigation has been finalised in 38 cases. which have been submitted in the Courts. The Police has solved 126 cases so far and arrested 165 persons.